

## Remarks

### ***Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103***

Pending claims 1-9, 18, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Sciacca (US 6,760,761) in view of Kuznetsov (US 6,772,413). This rejection is traversed in light of the following remarks.

The Applicants are grateful for the Examiner's acknowledgement, at p.4 of the Office Action, that "Sciacca does not explicitly cite the run-time analysis of a pair of collated semantics and automatic generation of adaptive software interface". Rather, as the Examiner has summarized, Sciacca teaches and is concerned with the adjustment of device configurations.

Claims 1, 8, 18 and 20 are independent claims, and share common features which form the basis of the Examiner's rejections.

### **Applicable Law**

To establish *prima facie* obviousness, the Patent and Trademark Office must show where each and every element of the claim is taught or suggested in the combination of references. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 580 (CCPA 1974). Under § 103, "obviousness requires a suggestion of **all** limitations in a claim." *CFMT, Inc. v. Yieldup Intern. Corp.*, 349 F.3d 1333, 1342 (Fed. Cir. 2003) (*citing In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 985 (CCPA 1974) (emphasis added)). The gap between the prior art and the claimed invention may not be "so great as to render the [claim] nonobvious to one reasonably skilled in the art." *Dann v. Johnston*, 425 U.S. 219, 230, 189 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 257, 261 (1976). If a claim element is missing after the combination is made, then the combination does not render obvious the claimed invention, and the claims are allowable. If the PTO fails to meet this burden, then Applicant is entitled to the patent. *In re Glaug*, 283 F.3d 1335, 1338 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

## **Sciacca**

Applicant maintains that the differences of the claimed subject-matter from the disclosure of Sciacca are readily apparent.

**1. Sciacca cannot render Claims 1, 8, 18 and 20 obvious at least because Sciacca does not disclose “generating structured meta-data... describing a characteristic of an interface capability of each of a first entity and at least one other entity”.**

The Examiner asserts, in the “Response to Arguments” section of the Office Action, that col.5, lines 41-52 of Sciacca discloses “how this data [providing at least one semantic information element describing a characteristic of an interface capability of an entity] is collected for the client-end device and stored in the configuration database”.

This, however, is not supported by the cited passage. The cited portions of Sciacca describe the input inspection engine 450 of the device configuration database 310. The engine “validates inputs from external entities”. For example, it may perform checks to ensure that invalid data is not entered by an operator into the configuration database 420.

The “external entities” of the cited passage of Sciacca include “customers, configuration novices and experts”. Therefore, the Examiner appears to be asserting that this passage discloses “structured metadata providing at least one semantic information element describing a characteristic of an interface capability of” a customer, configuration novice or expert. While it is unclear what the Examiner means by a “semantic information element describing a characteristic of an interface capability of” a human being, to the extent Applicant’s understand the Examiner’s statement to mean the cited portion teaches structured metadata providing at least one semantic

information element describing a characteristic of an interface capability, Applicants assert that the cited passage of Sciacca does not disclose anything of the sort.

This underlines the inconsistency of the Examiner's interpretation of what is taught by Sciacca. The cited portion of Sciacca discloses nothing about the "interface capability" of the external entities. Rather, it describes an input engine for validating inputs, nothing more.

**2. Sciacca cannot render Claims 1, 8, 18 and 20 obvious at least because Sciacca does not disclose "collating the at least one semantic information element of said first entity with the corresponding at least one semantic information element of said at least one other entity".**

Claims 1, 8, 18 and 20 distinguish from Sciacca in that Sciacca does not disclose generating and collating corresponding semantic information elements for two entities that wish to establish communication with one another. Even if the Examiner were correct that Sciacca discloses generating a semantic information element of some kind, describing an interface capability of the "other" entity (the "client-end" devices of Sciacca), a point the Applicants do not concede, the cited passages do not disclose generating, and collating corresponding metadata describing the interface capability of both devices.

Unless the same information elements are collected for both devices, there can be no possibility of collating corresponding elements.

**3. Sciacca cannot render Claims 1, 8, 18 and 20 obvious at least because Sciacca does not disclose "at run-time, analyzing the at least one pair of said collated semantic information elements to establish the extent to which the interface capabilities of said entities are compatible".**

Since Sciacca does not disclose generating metadata or collating corresponding semantic information elements for any "other entity", it necessarily follows that it also cannot disclose analyzing a pair of collated information elements (one for each entity).

The Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner has failed to identify explicitly what collated pair of semantic information elements is disclosed by Sciacca and how they are "[analyzed] ...to establish the extent to which" interface capabilities of the two entities are compatible.

**4. Sciacca cannot render Claims 1, 8, 18 and 20 obvious at least because Sciacca does not disclose "automatically generating in accordance with said established compatibility an adaptive software interface for said entities".**

The Examiner again admits that Sciacca does not teach automatically generating in accordance with said established compatibility an adaptive software interface for said entities as recited in the claims.

Consequently, Applicants maintain that Sciacca does not properly disclose the steps in the method recited in claims 1, 8 or 18, nor the elements of the system of claim 20.

#### **Kuznetsov**

The Examiner asserts that "Kuznetsov also teaches translators/interfaces for device environment compatibility". In fact, however, Kuznetsov describes a transformation method that facilitates generation of translation machine code (Kuznetsov: abstract; col. 5, lines 4-8; and paragraph bridging cols. 6-7). It is quite unlike Sciacca, and completely unrelated to the present invention.

In the method of Kuznetsov, a user wishing to exchange information between network nodes obtains a datamap (at run-time) which describes translation of a source format to a destination format. This is then used to configure a translator which, when executed,

translates a data stream from a source format "a" to a destination format "f" (see the paragraph bridging cols. 6-7).

Nothing in Kuznetsov teaches or suggests different interface capabilities between two network devices (nodes). Indeed, the method presented by Kuznetsov simply relates to the formatting languages used by two network nodes and ignores their interface capabilities. The translation undertaken by Kuznetsov therefore simply attempts to format one data stream into another different formatted data stream. This is clearly not the same as analyzing collated semantic information elements to establish the extent to which the interface capabilities of the nodes are compatible as claimed.

Further, the generation of a translator only needs to analyze the source and destination languages/formats, and Kuznetsov does this using a datamap describing the required translations. Kuznetsov therefore fails to disclose using information regarding the interface capabilities of the different nodes to analyze the extent to which they are compatible. Consequently, a translator generated according to Kuznetsov's method could be assumed to be equally applicable for communication between first and second nodes using languages "a" and "f", and communication between third and fourth nodes also using languages "a" and "f", even though the interface capabilities of the first to fourth nodes may be very different. Kuznetsov's approach thus overlooks issues that may be caused by the differing capabilities, whereas the claimed invention addresses such issues.

Consequently, even if there were to be a meaningful way of, and plausible motivation to, combine Sciacca and Kuznetsov, a point the Applicant does not concede, Kuznetsov does not remedy the deficiencies of Sciacca. Thus, Sciacca fails to disclose each of the recited limitations in as recited in claims 1, 8, 18 and 20. Kuznetsov does nothing to remedy these deficiencies. Accordingly, neither alone nor in combination do the cited references teach each and every element recited in Applicants' claims and thus the Examiner has not made a *prima facie* case of obviousness of claims 1, 8, 18 and 20 in

light of these two references. The case law cited above clearly mandates the Applicant's entitlement to a patent.

Claims 2-7, depend from claim 1, an allowable claim, and include all of the features and limitations of claim 1, and are therefore also submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

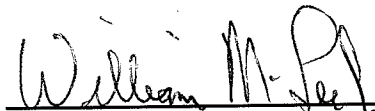
Claim 9, depends from claim 8, an allowable claim, and includes all of the features and limitations of claim 8, and is therefore also submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claim 22 depends from claim 20, an allowable claim, and includes all of the features and limitations of claim 20, and is therefore also submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the fact that all of the Examiner's comments have been addressed, further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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